Demand for overbridge at Palpara railway station

17. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a persistent demand for an over-bridge at Palpara railway station in Sealdah-Krishnagar section of the Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering the said demand; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The work of providing a foot-over-bridge at Palpara Railway Station will be processed for inclusion in the Railway's future works programme subject to availability of funds and comparative needs of other stations.

Availability of locos to the railways

18. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of locos which are needed by Indian Railways daily;

(b) what is the number of locos which are available daily;

(c) what is the number of locos which are out-dated;

(d) whether there is any gap between the demand and the availability of locos;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) what steps are proposed to be taken to remove the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Presently the Indian Railways use 3957 broad gauge and 659 metre gauge diesel and electric locomotives for day-to-day movement of freight and passenger services. And, this number of engines are available.

(c) 19 broad gauge d.c. overaged electric locomotives have been relegated to inferior services.

(d) and (e) Normally there is no gap between the demand and availability of locomotives. However, during the busy season when actual demand exceeds the planned target, temporary marginal shortages occur in diesel and electric locomotives.

(f) The production of diesel and electric locomotives has been/is being stepped up. Some electric locomotives are also being procured from Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited.

Growing incidence of Encephalitis

19. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidence of Encephalitis is on the increase in the country;

(b) if so, what is the State-wise break-up of such patients, along with the number of deaths, per year, during the last five years; and

(c) what action has been taken to control and subsequently to eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) A decline of 58. 25 per cent was recorded in Japanese Encephalitis incidence in the country in 1987 as compared to 1986.